

HIS
MAJESTIES
Declaration

To all His Loving *SVBIECTS*,
Vpon occasion of His late Messages to both Houses
OF
PARLIAMENT,
And their refusall to Treat with Him for the Peace
of the KINGDOME.

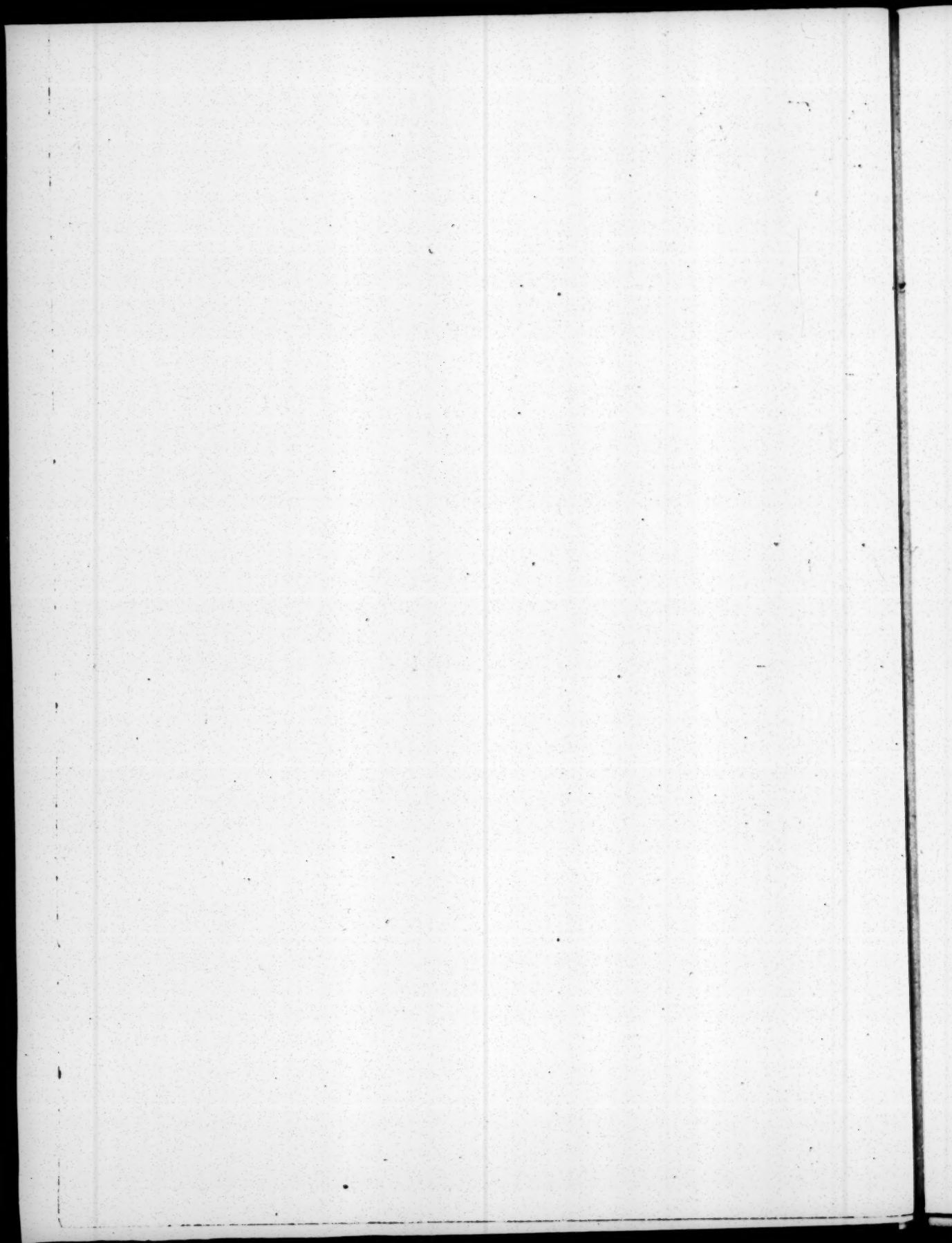
Charles R.

OvR expresse pleasure is, That this Our Declaration be published in all Churches and Chappels within the Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, by the Parlons, Vicars or Curates of the same.



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L O N D O N
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His Majesties Declaration to all
His Loving Subjects upon occasion of His
late Messages to both Houses of *Parliament*, and
their refusal to treat with him for the Peace of the
K I N G D O M E.

IF it had not evidently appeared to all men who have carefully examined and considered our Actions, Messages, and Declarations, how farre Wee are and have beene from begetting or promoting the present distractions, and that the Armes we have now taken are for the necessary safety and defence of our life, being not taken up by Vs till our Towne and fort of *Hull* were kept from Vs by force of Armes, our Navie imployed against Vs to keepe all forraigne supply of Armes and Mony, when our own here was seized and detained from Vs, and an Army raised in pay, and marching against Vs, yet the late reception of our Message of the Twentie fifth of *August* sent by persons of Honour and trust, will sure satisfie the world, that we have omitted nothing on Our part that a Gracious and Christian Prince could or can doe to prevent the effusion of Christian blood, but that the Malignant party, which have with great subtilty and industry begot this misunderstanding between Vs and our good Subjects, resolve to satisfie and secure their malice and Ambition with the ruine of the kingdome, and in the blood of Vs, and all Our good Subjects.

When they had forced Vs, after the neglect of our Message from *Beverly*, by raising a great Army, and incensing our Subjects against Vs, to erect our Royall Standard, that our Subjects might be informed of our danger, and repaire to our Succour, though we had no great reason to believe any Message of ours would receive a very good entertainment, if those men might prevaile, who had brought all these miseries upon the Kingdome to satisfie their owne private end: yet observing the miserable Accidents which already befell our good Subjects by the Souldiers under their command, and well knowing

knowing that greater would ensue, if timely prevention were not applyed; and finding that the malice and cunning of these men had infused into our People: Rumour, that We had rejected all propositions and offers of Treaty, and thereby engaged Our Subjects in a Civill Warre, which our soule abhorres, we presented with Our selfe (for a full expression of Our desire to prevent the effusion of blood) to send a gracious Message to both Our Houses of *Parliament* on the 2. of *August*. In these words,

We have with unspeakable griefe of heart long beheld the distractions of this Our Kingdome, Our very soule is full of anguish untill Wee find some remedy to prevent the Miseries which are ready to overthrow our whole Nation by a Civill Warre: And though all our endeavours in the composing of those unhappy differences betwixt Vs and our two Houses of Parliament (though pursued by Vs with all Zeale and Sincerity) have hitherto without that successe We hoped for; yet such is our constant and earnest desire to preserve the publike Peace, that Wee shall not bee discouraged to take any expedient, which by the blessing of the God of Mercy may lay a firm foundation of Peace and happinesse to all our good Subjects: To this end considering that many mistakes have arise by the Messages, Petitions and Answers betwixt Vs and Our two Houses of Parliament, which happily may bee prevented by some other way of Treaty, wherein the Matters in difference may be more clearly understood, and more freely transacted; We have thought fit to provide to you, that some fit persons may bee by you enabled to Treat with the like number to be authorized by Vs, in such manner, and with such freedom of debate, as may best tend to that happy Conclusion which all good men desire, *The peace of the Kingdome*: Wherein as We promise in the word of a King, all safety and encouragement to such as shall be sent to Vs, if you shall choose the place where We are for the Treaty, which We wholly leave to you, presuming of your like care of the safety of these Wee shall employ if you shall name another place; So We assure you and all our good Subjects, that (to the best of our understanding) nothing shall bee herein wanting on our parts, which may advance the true Protestant Religion, oppose Popery and Superstition, secure the Law of the Land (upon which is built as well our just Prerogative, as the Propriety and Liberty of the Subject) Confirm all just Power and Priviledges of Parliament, and render Vs and our people truly happy by a good understanding betwixt Vs and our two Houses of Parliament. Being with you as firme Resolutions to doe your duty, and let all our good people joyne with Vs in our prayers to Almighty God for his blessing upon this worke.

If this proposition shall be rejected by you, we have done our duty so amply, that God will absolve Vs from the guilt of any of that blood which must be spilt, and what opinion soever other men may have of our power, wee assure

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sure you nothing but our Christian and pious care to prevent the Effusion of blood hath begot this Motion, our provision of Men, Amies and Money being such as may secure Vs from farther violence, till it shall please God to open the eyes of our People.

Our Messengers were not suffered to sit in the Houses, and one of them, the Earle of Southampton (against whom there was not the least colour of exception or so much as a Vote.) not suffered to deliver our Message, but compelled to send it by the Gentleman Viceroy, and then commanded to depart the Town, before they would prepare any Answer which they shortly sent Vs in these words.

May it please Your Majesty,

THe Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, having received your Majesty's Message of the 25. of August, doe with much griefe resent the dangerous and distracted state of this Kingdome, which we have by all means endeavoured to prevent, both by our severall advices and Petitions to your Majesty, which have beene not onely without successe, but there hath followed that, which no ill counsell in former times hath produced, or any age hath seene, namely, those severall Proclamations and Declarations against both the Houses of Parliament, whereby their Actions are declared Treasonable, and their persons traitors; And whereupon your Majesty hath set up your Standard against them, whereby you have put the two Houses of Parliament, and in them the whole Kingdome out of your Protection; so that untill your Majesty shall recall those Proclamations and Declarations, whereby the Earle of Essex and both Houses of Parliament, and their adherents and assistants, and such as have obeyed and executed their commands and directions, according to their duties, are declared traitors, or otherwise delinquents; And untill the Standard set up in pursuance of the said Proclamations be taken downe, your Majesty hath put us into such a condition, that whilest we so remaine, we cannot by the fundamentall privileges of Parliament; the publicke trust reposed in us; or with the generall good and safety of this Kingdome give your Majesty any other answer to this Message.

Ioh. Browne Cler. Parl. H. Linge Cler. Parl. D. Com.

THis strange Answer might well have discouraged Vs from any thought of proceeding farther this way, and informed Vs sufficient y what spirit still governed amongst those few, who continued still in both Houses; therefore after so many bitter and invective Messages and Declarations sent to Vs, and published against Vs, we should not have beene reproached with our Proclamations and Declarations sent forth by Vs, as the effect of such evil Counsell, as was unparalleled by any former examples. We beleieve indeed such Proclamations and Declarations have never beene before sent forth; but were former times ever acquainted with such intolerable provocations? were there ever, before these Twelve Months, Declarations published in the name of either or both Houses of Parliament to make their King odious to the people?

Have either or both Houses ever before assumed or pretended to a power to raise Armes or levie Warre in any cause, or can both Houses together exercise such a Power? Are those Actions which the Law hath defined literally and expressly to be treasonable, or such Persons to be Traitors, not so because they are done by Members of either House, or their appointment? And must not We declare such who March with Armes and Force to destroy Vs, to be Traitors, because the *Earle of Essex* is their Generall? Those whom Wee have or doe accuse, We have named together with the Crimes, notorious by the knowne Law of the Land, (a favour not granted to our Evill Counsellors) and appeale to that knowne Law to judge betwene Vs: And now that by this we should have put the whole Kingdome out of our Protection (in whose behalfe we do all that we have done) is a corrupt Gloffe upon such a Text, as cannot bee perverted but by the cunning practices of such who wish not well to King or People, yet that no weake Persons might bee misled by that imputation upon Vs, we sent a Reply to that Answer in these words.

WE E will not repeat what meanes We have used to prevent the dangerous and distracted estate of the Kingdome, nor how those meanes have beene interpreted, because being desirous to avoyd effusion of blood, We are willing to decline all memory of former bitterness that might make Our offer of a Treaty lesse readily accepted.

We never did Declare, nor ever intended to Declare both Our Houses of Parliament Traitors, or set up Our Standard against them, and much lesse to put them and this Kingdome out of Our Protection: Wee utterly professe against it before God and the World. And further to remove all possible Scruples which may hinder the Treaty so much desired by Vs; We hereby promise, so that a day be appointed by you for the revoking of your declarations, against all Persons as Traitors or other wayes, for assisting of Vs. wee shall with all cheerefulness upon the same day recall our Proclamations & Declarations and take downe Our Standard: In which Treaty We shall be ready to grant any thing that shall bee really for the good of Our Subjects; Conjuring you to consider the bleeding condition of *Ireland*, and the dangerous condition of *England*, in as high a degree as by these Our offers We have declared Our selfe to do: And assuring you that Our chiefe desire in this world is to begt a good understanding and mutuall confidence betwixt Vs and Our two Houses of Parliament.

THis Message produced an Answer little differing from the former, like men who had no other measure of the Justice of their cause, then their power to oppress Vs, forgetting their owne duties, they sharply informe Vs of Ours in these words,

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May it please Your Majesty ;

IF We the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, should Repeat all the wayes we have taken, the endeavours we have used, and the expressions we have made unto Your Majestie to prevent these distractions, and dangers Your Majesty speaks of, likely to fall upon this Kingdome, we should too much enlarge this reply, Therefore as wee humbly, so shall we onely let Your Majesty know, that we cannot Recede from our former Answer for the reasons therein expressed. For that Your Majesty hath not taken downe your Standard, recalled Your Proclamations and Declarations, whereby You have declared the Actions of both Houses of Parliament to bee Treasenable and their persons Traytors. And you have published the same since Your Message of the twentieth of August by your late instructions sent to your Commissioners of Aray, which Standard being taken downe, and the Declarations, Proclamations and instructions recalled, If your Majestie shall then upon this our humble petition, leaving Your Forces, returne unto your Parliament, and receive their faithful advice, Your Maiesly will finde such expressions of our fidelities and duties, as shall assure You that Your safety, Honour and greatnesse can only be found in the affections of Your people, and the sincere Counsellis of Your Parliament, whose constant, and undiscouraged endeavours, and consultations have passed through difficulties unheard of, onely to secure Your Kingdome from the violent Mischiefes and dangers now ready to fall upon them, and every part of them, who deserve better of Your Majesty, and can never allow themselves (representing likewise your whole Kingdome) to be ballanced with those persons whose desperate dispositions and counsellis prevaile, still so to interrupt all our endeavours for the relieving of bleeding Ireland, as we may feare our labours, and vast expences will be fruitlesse to that distressed Kingdome. As your presence is thus humbly desired by us ; So is it in our hopes your Majesty will in your reason believe, there is no other way then this, to make your selfe happie, and your Kingdome safe.

John Browne Cler. Parliament.

Without any bitterness or reprehension of their neglect of Vs, and the publike Peace, to expresse Our deepe sense of the Calamities at hand, We yet once more (hoping to awake them to a Christian tendernesse towards the whole Kingdome) sent to them in these words.

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WHo have taken most wayes, used most endeavours, and made most reall expressions to prevent the present distractions and dangers, let all the world judge, as well by former Passages as by our two last Messages, which have beene so fruitlesse, that (though wee have descended to desire and presse it) not so much as a Treaty can be obtained, unlesse we would denude our selfe of all force to defend Vs from a visible strength marching against Vs, and admit those Persons as Traitors to Vs, who according to their duty, their Oaths of Allegiance, and the Law, have appeared in defence of Vs their King and Liege Lord (whom we are bound in Conscience and Honour to preserve) though we disclaimed all our Proclamations and Declarations, and the erecting of our Standard as against our Parliament: All we have now left in our Power is to expresse the deepe sence wee have of the publike misery of this Kingdome, in which is involved that of Our distressed Protestants of *Ireland*, and to apply our selfe to our necessary defence, wherein we wholly rely upon the Providence of God, and the justice of our Cause, and the affection of our good People, so far we are from putting them out of our protection. ¶ When you shall desire a Treaty of Vs, we shall piously remember whose blood is to be spilt in this quarrell, and cheerefully embrace it: And as no other Reason induced Vs to leave our Citie of *London*, but that with honour and safety we could not stay there, nor raise any force but for the necessary defence of our Person and the Law, against Leavies in opposition to both, so we shall suddenly and most willingly returne to the one, and disband the other, as soone as those causes shall bee removed. The God of Heaven direct you, and in mercy divert those judgements which hang over this Nation, and so deale with Vs and our Posterity as We desire the Preservation and Advancement of the true Protestant Religion, the Lawes and the Libertie of the Subiect, the iust Rights of Parliament, and the Peace of the Kingdome.

BUt as if all these Gracious Messages had beene the effects only of our weakness, and instances of Our want of Power to resist that torment, they deale at last more plainly with Vs, and after many sharpe, causelesse, and unjust reproaches, they tell Vs in plaine English, that without putting our Selfe absolutely into their hands, and deserting all our owne Force, and the protection of all those who have faithfully appeared for Vs according to their duty, there would be no meanes of a Treaty, although our extraordinary desire of Peace had prevailed with Vs, to offer to recall our most iust Declarations, and to take downe our Standard, set up for our necessary defence, so their unjustifiable Declarations might bee likewise recalled, their Answer followes in these words,

WE E the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, do present this our
 humble Answer to Your Majesties Message of the eleventh of this instant
 Month of Septem. when Wee consider the oppressions, Rapines, Firing of Houses,
 Murthers, (even as this time, whilst Your Majesty propounds a Treaty) com-
 mitted upon Your good Subjects by Your Souldiers, in the presence, and by the Au-
 thority of their Commanders, being of the number of those whom Your Majesty
 holds Your selfe bound in Honour and Conscience to protect as persons doing their
 duties. We cannot thinke Your Majesty hath done all that in You lies to prevent, or
 remove the present distractions; nor so long as Your Majesty will admit no peace
 without securing the Authors and Instruments of these mischiefs from the justice
 of the Parliament, which yet shall bee ever dispensed with all requisite moderation
 and distinction of offences, Although some of those persons be such in whose preser-
 vation Your Kingdome cannot be safe, nor the unquestionable rights and Priviledges
 of Parliament be maintained; without which the power and dignity thereof will
 fall into contempt. We beseech Your Majesty therefore to consider Your expressions,
 That God should deale with You and Your posterity, as Your Majesty desires the
 preservation of the just Rights of Parliament, which being undeniable in the try-
 ing of such as We have declared to bee Delinquents, We shall be in Your Majesty
 both towards Your selfe and Parliament will not in this priviledge. We are most sen-
 sible of, deny us that which belongs unto the meanest Court of Justice in this King-
 dome. Neither hath Your Majesty cause to complain that You are denied a Treaty,
 when We offer all that a Treaty can produce, or Your Majesty expect, Security, Ho-
 nour, Service, Obedience, Support, and all other effects of an Humble, Loyal, and
 faithfull Subjection, and seek nothing but that our Religion, Liberty, peace of the
 Kingdome, safety of the Parliament may be secured from the open violence, and
 cunning practises of a wicked party, who have long plotted our ruine and de-
 struction; And if there were any cause of Treaty, we know no competent Persons
 to Treat betwixt the King and Parliament, And if both cause and persons were
 such as to invite Treaty, the season is altogether unfit, whilst Your Majesties
 Standard is up, and Your Proclamations and Declarations unrecalled, whereby Your
 Parliament is charged with Treason.

If Your Majesty shall persist to make Your selfe a shield and defence to those In-
 struments, and shall continue to reject our faithfull and necessary advice for securing
 and maintaining Religion and Liberty, with the Peace of the Kingdome and safety of
 the Parliament, We doubt not but to indifferent judgements it will easily appear
 who is most tender of that innocent Blood which is like to be spilt in this cause, Your
 Majesty, who by such persisting, doth endanger Your selfe and Your Kingdome, or
 we; who are willing to hazard our selves, to preserve both. Wee humbly beseech
 Your Majesty to consider how impossible it is, that any Protestation, though publi-
 shed in Your Majesties name, of the tenderesse of the miseries of Your Protestant
 Subjects in Ireland, of Your Resolution to maintaine the Protestant Religion, and
 Liberties of this Kingdome, can give satisfaction to reasonable and indifferent Men,
 whilst at the same time diverse of the Irish Traytors and Rebels, the knowne favou-

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vers of them, and agents for them, are admitted to Your Majesties presence With Grace and Favour, and some of them employed in Your service; when the Cloaths, Munition, Horses, and other Necessaries bought by Your Parliament and sent for the supply of the Army against the Rebels there, are violently taken away, some by Your Majesties command, others by Your Ministers, and applyed to the maintenance of an unnatural War against your people here.

All this notwithstanding as we never gave Your Majesty any just cause of withdrawing Your selfe from Your great Councell, so it hath ever been, and shall ever be farre from us to give any impediment to your returne, or to neglect any proper means of curing the distempers of the Kingdom, and closing the dangerous Breaches betwixt Your Majesty and Your Parliament, according to the great trust which lies upon us, and if Your Majesty shall now be pleased to come back to Your Parliament, without Your Forces, we shall be ready to secure Your Royall Person, Your Crowne, and Dignity, with our Lives and Fortunes, Your presence in this Your great Councell, being the only means of any Treaty betwixt Your Majesty and them with hope of Successe.

And in none of our desires to Your Majesty shall we be swayed by any particular mans advantage, but shall give a clear Testimony to Your Majesty, and the whole World, that in all things done by us, we faithfully intend the good of your Majesty, and of Your Kingdoms, and that we will not be diverted from this end by any private, or selfe respects whatsoever.

John Browne Cler. Parliament.

They will not believe we have done all that in us lyes to prevent and remove the present Distractions, because of the oppressions, rapines, and the like committed upon our good Subjects by our souldiers. Let them remember who have compelled us, and against our soules desire, forced us to raise those souldiers, and then if the oppressions and rapines were indeed such as are falsely pretended, our poore Subjects who suffer under them, will looke on them, and only on them, as the Authors of all the miseries they do or can undergo, we confesse with grief of heart some disorders have, and many more may befall our good people by our souldiers, but we appeal to all those Counties through which we have passed, what care we have taken to prevent, and what justice we dayly inflict upon such offenders: neither hath the least complaint been ever made to us of violences and outrages, which we have not to our utmost power repayred or punished; how ever those false & treasonable Pamphlets are suffered which accuse us of giving warrant for plundering of houses. Our Mercy and Lenity is so well knowne to the contrary, that it is usually made an excuse by those who against their consciences assist this rebellion against us.

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that they cause rather to offend us upon the confidence of pardon, then provoke those Malignant persons who without charity or compassion destroy all who concur not with them in faction and opinion. How rare we are from rapine and oppression may appear by our Lenity to the persons and Estate of those who have not only exercised the *Militia* (the seed from whence this rebellion against us hath growne) but contributed money and plate to the maintenance of that Army which now endeavours to destroy us, as of *Nottingham*, *Leicester*, and many other places through which we have passed many of whom then were and now are in that Army: to let passe our passing by *Chartly* (the house of the *Earle of Essex*) without other pressures than as if he were the Generall of our owne Army, and our expresse orders to restrain the Liberty, our souldiers would otherwise have used upon that place, and his Estate about it. How contrary the proceedings are of these great Assertors of the publique Liberties, appears fully by the said instances they every day give in the plundering by publick warrant, the houses of all such whose duty, conscience, and loyalty hath engaged them in our Quarrell, which every good man ought to make his owne. By their declaring all persons to be out of the protection of Parliament (and so exposing them to the fury of their souldiers) who will not assist this rebellion against us, their anointed King, by the dayly outrages committed in *Yorkshire*, when contrary to the desire and agreement of that County (signed under the hands of both parties) they will not suffer the peace to be kept, but that the distractions and confusion may be universall over the whole Kingdome, direct their Governour of *Hull* to make Warr upon our good Subjects in that County, and so continue the robbing and plundering the houses of all such who concur not with them in this rebellion. Lastly, by the barbarous, sacrilegious inhumanity exercised by their souldiers in Churches, as in *Canterbury*, *Worcester*, *Oxford*, and other places, where they committed such unheard of outrages, as Idles, and Atheists, never practised before. God in his good time will make them examples of his vengeance.

We never did, nor ever shall desire to secure the Authors and instruments of any mischiefs to the Kingdome from the Justice of Parliament, we desire all such persons may be speedily brought to condigne punishment by that rule which is, or ought to be, the rule of all punishment, the knowne Law of the Land, if there have seemed to be any interruption in proceedings of this nature, it must be remembered, how long persons have been kept under generall accusations, without tryall, though earnestly desired, that the Members who were properly to judge such accusations have by violence been driven thence, or could not with honour and safety be present at such debates; that notorious Delinquents by the knowne Lawes were protected against us from the Justice of the Kingdome, and such called Delinquents, who committing no offence against any knowne Law were so voted only for doing their duties to us, and then there will be no cause of complaint found against us.

And for the priviledges of Parliament We have said so much and upon such reasons, (which have never beene answered but by bare positive Assertions) in our severall Declarations, that wee may well, and doe still use the same expression, That we desire God may so deale with Vs and our posterity, as we desire the preservation of the just Rights of Parliament.

The violation whereof in truth by these desperate Persons is so c'eerely known to all men who understand the priviledges of Parliament, that their rage and malice hath not beene greater to Our Person and Government than to the Liberty, priviledge, and very being of Parliaments, witnesse their putting in putting out, & suspending what persons they please, as they dislike their opinions, their bringing downe the Tumults to assault the Members, and awe the Parliament, their positing and prosecuting such Members of either House as concurred not with them in their Designes, and so driving them from thence for the safety of their lives, their denying Vs, against the knowne, established Law, and the Constitution of the kingdome, to have a negative voyce, without which no Parliament can consist, their making close Committees, from whence the Members of the Houses are exempted, against the Liberty of Parliament, and lastly resolving both Houses into a close Committee, of seventene persons who undertake and direct all the present outrages and the managery of this Rebellion against Vs, in the absence of foure parts of five of both Houses, and without the privy of those who stay there, which is not only contrary but destructive to Parliaments themselves. By these grosse, unheard of Invasions and breaches of the Priviledges of Parliament, (and without them they could not have done the other) They made way for their attempts upon the Law of the Land, and the introduction of that unlimited, Arbitrary power which they have since exercised to the intolerable damage and confusion of the whole kingdome, And We assure Our good Subjects the Vindication of these just Liberties and Priviledges of Parliament, thus violated by these men, is not lesse the Argument of our present quarrell and undertaking, then our owne Honour, Interest, and safety, those being no way so securely to bee preserved, as by preserving Parliaments and their just Priviledges. Neither is there any Protestation to our knowledge published in our name of our tenderesse of the miseries of *Ireland*, and our Resolution to maintaine the Protestant Religion, and Lawes of this Kingdome, that is not the Protestation of our Scule; and manifested in all our actions, and Wee hope that false Scandall, That diverse of the *Irish* Traitors and Rebels, the knowne favourers of them, and Agents for them are admitted to our presence with favour and employed in our service, will gaine no credit with good men, who remember well the notorious imputation so confidently and groundlessly heretofore cast on us by Master *Pym*, of which as there could never be the least prooffe, so we could never receive any satisfaction for that high injury, which might have beene a warning to them to have published no more such untruths, if they had not found that truth and their Ends cannot meet together.

For the Horses taken for our Service, which were provided for the service of
Ireland,

Ireland, It is true, Wee were compelled for the bringing our owne waggones from *Chester* for the Carriage of our Munition to make use of them, being few in number and of small value, after they were certified to bee of no use for the service, for which they were provided. And for the Clothes, upon enquiry We find that some few were taken by our Souldiers (but without any order from Vs) going to *Coventry*, and as was probably believed for the reliefe of that place, then in actuall Rebellion against Vs, but how farre we have bin, and are from diverting any of those provisions made for the reliefe of that poore Kingdome (the thought of whose miserable condition makes our heart bleed) may appeare by our expresse command given for the speedy transportation of 3000. suites of Clothes which Wee found provided at *Chester*, but neglected to bee sent, and which no necessity of our owne Army here could prevaile with us to seize. And how bold soever the reproaches of that kind have bin upon Vs, we are confident malice it selfe cannot lay the least probable imputation upon us, for the neglect of our duty towards that Kingdome. What one thing in our power have wee neglected or omitted, which might contribute to the assistance, or ease of our poore Protestant Subjects there? we first recommended the case of that businesse to both our Houses of Parliament. We consented to all propositions made on the behalfe offered to raise 10000. Voluntiers, (which if then accepted had shortned that worke) offered to venture our owne person in the service, what interpretation that offer of ours found, is knowne to all the world, wee parted with our Interest in the Land of the Rebels, to encourage such who were willing to adventure in that businesse, and when Money is raised by our consent for that sole purpose, they have at once seized on a hundred thousand pound particularly appointed by Act of Parliament for the reliefe of *Ireland* (our Army being ready to perish for want of it) and imployed it to maintaine this unnatural civill Warre at home. They have Leavied men and entertained Commanders for that service, and then compelled them to joyne in this Rebellion, and to march against us, and though they have complained of our keeping the Lieutenant of *Ireland* some weeks with us, (when in truth it was a season of extraordinary busines) after we had in vaine for many Moneths pressed his dispatch, yet themselves now detaine him, when his going is so necessary for the preservation of that Kingdome. And no doubt these men (and these alone) by begetting this miserable distraction of *England*, are guilty before God and Man of all the insupportable calamities that our Kingdome of *Ireland* endures. Let all the world judge where the desire of peace is, and upon whose account the blood and confusion which hath beene shed and must follow, shall be cast. And whether the severall Proclamations and Declarations published by us, have not beene extorted from us, by such unheard of insolencies and injuries, which no former times ever produced, neither can any sober man wonder when Wee are publicly reproached, traduced, and reviled to our people (a practice never knowne till this Parliament) that Wee endeavour by a true relation and Declaration of our Actions and Intentions, and of their Conspiracies, who have vowed our destruction,

to informe our good Subjects of the cunning and malice they are to encounter with; and when a Combination is entred into to destroy Vs, and to alter the Religion and Law of the Kingdome, and to that purpose an Army raised and marching against us, that We proclaime the Generall of that Army and such who shall assist him in leavying a warre against us, to be Traitors and have set up our Royall Standard, and required all our good Subjects to come to our defence. And yet both in that Proclamation and in all our Declarations we have never accused our Parliament, but such factious, seditious Members of both Houses whom we have named, and whom We are ready to prove according to the rules of the knowne Law to be guilty of High Treason. We well know, and all the Kingdom knowes that of neere 500. Members, which the House of Commons containes, there remaines not now there 100. neither hath above such a number consented almost to any thing of which wee have ever complained, the rest have either beene driven away by Tumults and Threats of the Persons whom we have accused, or out of Conscience withdrawne themselves from their desperate Consultations, and of about 100. Peeres of the Realme, there are not above 15. or 16. who concurre in these miserable Resolutions, which disturbe the publique Peace, many of which being of desperate fortunes, have no other support, then the commands now given them to make war upon us, and now these men must sit upon the lives and fortunes of all the Nobility, Gentry, and Commons of *England*, and because we will not put our selfe into the hands, Government, and disposall of them, all our good Subjects are invited and encouraged to rebell against us, yet we have beene, and are still farre from accusing all that small number of both Houses who are yet left together, we believe many of them are misled by the cunning and malice, and frighed by the power of those men whom we have accused, against every one of whom we have evidence of matter of fact, that the knowne Law of the Land determines to be High Treason.

And now that all Our good Subjects may see how desirous these men and their adherents are to prevent the effusion of blood, and the lasting miseries of a Civill Warre, they will make themselves so considerable, that except we will recall our Proclamations and Declarations whereby particular men named for particular Actions (which the Law hath defined to be Treason) are so accused, and others warned from involving themselves in their guilt, and except we will take downe our *Standard*, that our good Subjects may not repaire to us for our defence, when so many Armies are raised against us in severall parts of the kingdome, and ready to destroy us, and such of our good Subjects, who dare continue loyal to us, and except we will returne to *London*, from whence with violence we have beene driven, we must not be treated with, or receive any Answer to so gracious a Message.

It can no longer be doubted by any man, who hath not wilfully forsaken his understanding, that it is no more a quarrell undertaken by the Parliament, but contrived and fomented by the persons we have named, and now continued solely in their defence, to whose Ambition, Faction, and Malice, the true reformed

pro estin,

protestant Religion, the just Right, Honour, Safety, and life of us and our posterity the Law of the Land, which hath so long preserved this Nation happy, the liberty of the Subject established by that Law, and the glorious frame and constitution of this kingdom must be sacrificed. But as we have hitherto left no Action unperformed, which in honour, justice and Conscience we were obliged to doe, or in Christian policy and prudence wee could conceive might probably prevent these Calamities, so we thanke God he hath given us a full courage and resolution to run the utmost hazard of our life for the suppression of this horrible Rebellion, in the which no disproportion of power, Armes, or money shall discourage us: And we hope that all our good Subjects besides, by the common duty of Allegiance, will bee stirred up for their owne sakes, for the preservation of the Blessed Protestant Religion, and for the upholding this whole admirable frame of Government which being dissolved, all their private and particular rights and Interest must bee immediately confounded, to bring in their utmost power and assistance unto us in this desperate exigent. And We doe declare that whosoever shall lose his life in this Service for our defence, the Wardship of his Heyre shall be granted by us without rent or Fyne to his owne use, and we shall hold our selfe obliged to take all possible care for the support, reliefe, and protection of all their wives, and Children, who shall have the hard fortune to dye in this Service.

FINIS.

